CDXC CHILTERN DX CLUB The UK DX Foundation

Newsletter

September 1994 CDXC - The UK DX Foundation Issue 91

CDXC OFFICERS 1994/1995

PRESIDENT:	G3KMA	Roger Balister,	Tel 0276 858 224
	La Quinta, Mimbridge, Chobham, Woking, Surrey GU24 8AR		
CHAIRMAN:	G3NUG	Neville Cheadle	Tel 0442 629 29
	Further Felden, Longcroft Lane, Felden, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 0BN		
VICE CHAIRMAN:	G4LJF	Ian Shephard	Tel 0734 780 022
	Hutts Farm, Blagrove Lane, Wokingham, RG11 4RX		
VICE CHAIRMAN:	G6LX	Ron Glaisher	Tel 081 654 1406
(AWARDS)	279 Addiscombe Rd., Croydon, CR0 7HY		
SECRETARY:	G0IHXN	David Mann	Tel 0344 761 937
	106 South Meadow, Crowthorne, Berks, RG11 7HP		
TREASURER:	G4PFF	Mike Potter	Tel 0767 677 792
	38 West Street, Great Gransden, Sandy, Beds, SG19 3AU		
NEWSLETTER	G3PMR	Alan Jubb	Tel/Fax 0767 677 913
EDITOR:	30 West Street, Great Gransden, Sandy, Beds, SG19 3AU		
CONTEST	G4WVX	Bruce Gilson	Tel 0628 664 415
CO-ORDINATOR:	3A Lincoln Hatch Lane, Burnham, Slough, SL1 7HA		

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: OCTOBER 7th

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

From the Constitution: *"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"*

From the Prospectus: *"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"*

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £10.00 for UK members, and £15.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above). ***New subscription rates apply from 1st Jan 1995.***

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Committee.*

STOP PRESS!
FOC AWARDS CDXC
The Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Trophy

I am very pleased to be able to announce that The First Class C.W. Operators Club (FOC) has awarded the *Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Trophy* to the Chiltern DX Club. The trophy, which is presented in memory of Al Slater, G3FXB, was presented in 1993 for the first time, to Bill Maxson, N4AR. The trophy has been presented to CDXC for its work as the leading organisation promoting DX and HF interests within the UK, for the impetus that CDXC has given to HF in the UK, by initiating the PacketCluster system, supporting DXpeditions, and by encouraging new blood into DXing. These are very much in line with the interest that Al Slater had in encouraging DXing, contesting, and HF operating in general.

The trophy will be presented to CDXC at the FOC Annual Dinner on the evening of Saturday October 1st at Lord's Cricket Ground. Our President, Roger Balister, G3KMA, will be attending to receive the trophy. I am also hoping to be there.

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

EDITORIAL
Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Hello, everybody. I am, of course extremely pleased, and proud, that CDXC has been chosen as the first organisation to receive the Al Slater, G3FXB Memorial Trophy. It is extremely gratifying that all the hard work put in by the Committee and other members of CDXC is recognised, and, indeed, recognised outside CDXC. Every member can feel proud of the award; it is your subscriptions which have enabled CDXC to undertake the work which has led to the award.

Apologies for the slight delay in publishing this edition of the Newsletter; having heard rumours of the above award on the grapevine, I naturally wanted to publish the information, but had to wait for clearance before doing so.

I can't let this Newsletter pass without some comment on the state of the UK PacketCluster network. From a personal point of view, my ability to connect to a Cluster node has deteriorated dramatically over the last few months, to the point where it's near impossible to stay connected for more than a few minutes without dropping out. This is no fault of the PacketCluster network, but the unfortunate closure of two of the stations that I used for access. Initially, I had a very reliable link to DXH via G6XEG, who left his station on 24 hours per day, and who was quite happy for me to digipeat through him. I then used a less solid, but still good, connection to BPQ via G4FIS. Unfortunately for me, and many others, G4FIS has now closed his station, and I've moved back to DXH. However, I've yet to find a reliable link in to DXH, and the connection is tentative to say the least. Plans are afoot to open a new Cluster node in Peterborough, although I'm not sure whether this will improve things for me. I would guess the path and distance from my QTH to Peterborough are very similar to that to DXH. So, apologies to anyone who may have sent mail to me (or to Mike, G4PFF), which has been returned unanswered. Finally, there is the unfortunate closure of BPQ, about which there has been

much comment on the network, some of it very much not in the spirit of amateur radio. All I can say is a big thank you to John, who ran a first class node for many years, with an extremely high up time, and who was very helpful to me. I should extend this thank you to all sysops, and operators of intermediate nodes, DXers or not, who put in a great deal of their time and money to give us what is generally an excellent facility. There is an article in this Newsletter by David, G3OUF, which explains the running costs of a node, I think you will find it something of an eye opener. So, rather than sniping at the network, I should encourage all users to join their support group, thereby providing funds to improve the PacketCluster network.

A few weeks ago, I invested in a new rig, a Yaesu FT990, to replace my old FT757, which I had purchased second hand in 1985 when I returned to amateur radio after a break of seventeen years, and before I became interested in DXing. What can I say? It's quite an amazing rig - the receiver is truly wonderful, with such a low noise floor, amongst other things. I can now *hear* the DX! Of all the improvements I've made to the station in the last year (new antenna, addition of an amplifier, and now the new rig), this is the one that has most increased my ability to work DX - after all, if you can't hear them, you can't work them!

Now I know we're all mad, having seen a rather spectacular photograph on the front cover of the Japanese CQ magazine of the BS7H operation, where the platform that was erected to enable the rigs to be set up in an operable state was bigger than the piece of rock that purports to be a country. I later discovered that the photograph was taken at low tide! New country? - surely the rules are wrong if it is. I'm pleased to hear that the DXAC currently have the subject of minimum size of a qualifying country on their agenda. This may well also affect Seborga, too.

As Bren, G4DYO says later in this Newsletter, there's still lots of DX about if you're prepared to dig it out. One that I missed, due to being away on holiday, was TN0CW - but I guess there'll be another time!

The IOTA Contest seems to have been another resounding success, inspite of somewhat mediocre propagation conditions. It was good to hear so much CW activity, vindicating those who had pressed for the change to the rules to allow this mode. I was active for part of the time, on both modes, on a casual basis, and managed to work 15 new islands. I had practically no access to PacketCluster during the weekend, for the reasons already stated, so probably missed a good number of other new islands. Congratulations to Don, G3OZF, and Steve, G4JVG for their first class operation from *The Minkies* - see article about this one later in the Newsletter.

Finally, many congratulations to the operators of G0KPW (which included a number of CDXC members) for a truly outstanding performance in the 1993 CQWW SSB contest. The team gained top place in Europe and 4th place in the World in the Multi-operator Multi-transmitter Section. Congratulations also to CDXC members GW4BLE (5th in Europe, Single Op High Power Section), G3NAS (8th in Europe, Single Op High Power Section) and G0SLY (10th in Europe, Single Op High Power Section, operating as GJ0SLY) for their achievements - see scores later in the Newsletter.

Thanks to all contributors to this issue, plus DXNS, TDXB, Inside DX, and the UK PacketCluster Network.

See you all at the Convention! 73 Alan, G3PMR.

Printed for CDXC by

ADUR VILLAGE PRESS (G4BUE) Telephone 01903 879750 Fax 01903 814594

from art work supplied

The Chairman's Bit

Neville Cheadle, G3NUG

A very busy time here at Further Felden since my last note. I suppose Scarborough Reef was one of the highlights of the past few weeks. Weren't we very fortunate on Saturday 25 June to have such excellent propagation to the Far East with BS7H being heard in the UK continuously for well over 12 hours on 20m. SSB? We were really lucky as the indices were SFI=72, A=2 and K=0 but the QRN here was very high indeed.

The group had obviously decided to maximise their QSO rate by working North America initially followed by Europe. I suppose that getting as many US stations as possible in the log will increase the pressure on the DXCC desk to grant Scarborough Reef new country status! But they could have made it much easier for all of us by explaining what they were doing! They simply had to say that they would be working North America until a particular time and then after that they would work Europe.

This would have reduced the frustration factor significantly as everyone would have known where they stood. Will it count? Opinion as usual is split - those who worked BS7H in the main say it will count! - those who didn't say it won't! We shall see!!!!! Having seen a picture of the scaffold deck perched on a small piece of rock it has all the shades of Okino Torishima!

I feel that conditions generally have been quite good for the past few weeks. One morning last week there were about 6 KH6s on 20m. SSB, ZK3UC on Tokelau and a number of FO8s and all were relatively easy to work though I suppose the new TH11 at 100 feet on top of the hill here at Felden does help a little!

17m. is becoming one of my favourite bands. Sometimes it seems quite dead but a CQ call around 0900Z with the beam to the North inevitably brings in a number of JAs and occasionally a fairly rare Pacific island. And 80m. has been in good shape too with 9M8 and 9V1 workable in the evenings on my simple Windom.

Another highlight of the month was Herb's (G/OZ7SM) and Maura's party at their lovely home at Beoley. The weather was kind to us, the hospitality and food excellent and a thoroughly good time was had by all. And let's hope that Herb succeeds in getting his new 4 element 5 band quad tuned soon, he's only been working at it for 2 months so far. I spent a year working on mine before I finally gave up! Getting these big quads working really well seems to be a really tough challenge.

A further highlight was the 1994 IOTA Contest. Great activity and despite relatively poor conditions about 150 island groups were active, a remarkable number and more than enough for anyone to qualify for the basic 100 certificate. I find it very encouraging that this RSGB UK Contest is having such a major impact world-wide. Several very rare ones were active - I personally picked up 5 completely new island groups - and the new CW section seems to have created a great deal of activity. No longer can IOTA be said to be an SSB award - I wonder who's going to be the first to claim the 750 IOTA Plaque of Excellence solely on CW?

And finally to the Convention. This has been keeping me very busy particularly in the past few weeks and bookings have continued to flow in at a most encouraging rate. I do believe that we will have an excellent weekend, the programme is now firm and the IOTA Birthday Party on Friday evening 7 October and the DX Dinner on Saturday evening 8 October will be particular highlights. See you there - do visit the CDXC room, and meet your fellow members - we will have a superb station operating this year.

JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY

Dave MANN G0HXN

Well that's another summer nearly behind us and the hottest July in 250 years in this part of the world, and at time of writing the IOTA contest has just finished, no entry again from me but quite a few new islands under the belt. Unfortunately from my QTH I had S7 of noise nearly all the time especially when beaming between N and E, the only really quite spot was due South. Unfortunately my works QTH (Please don't believe all you read about it) which is on my door step took this weekend to install new emergency generators and a new mains supply, this meant the security lights for some unexplainable technical explanation were left on nearly all weekend, and its unbelievable the noise several hundred kilowatts of light puts out. Still can't complain really, but hopefully that's the last of that, and I can make some sort of an entry next year. Congratulations to the IOTA Committee hopefully the entries will reflect on the amount of work put into the organisation of the event.

Jenny and I really enjoyed meeting some familiar, and also some new faces at Herb & Maura's Barbecue, thanks to you both for opening up your beautiful home to us again, another great success, and wasn't the weather kind to us although we got caught in a downpour on the way home down the M40. As the "new boy" on the block I find the experience of just listening to the "older" hands very beneficial. There is a real wealth of knowledge to be had at these gatherings. Even Jenny found several kindred souls and managed to spend the day in non radio related chit chat.

By the time you are reading this newsletter your new committee would have met for the first time, and hopefully put together a programme of support for this years DXpeditions, we have had several nominations so far, but as of yet nothing so exciting as the Peter the 1st trip. I hope by now some of you have had the great pleasure in reading the book of the expedition. I agree a little on the dear side, but what a book. I picked my copy up from Bren's during the evening, opened the cover at about 10 pm, and finished it in the wee hours of the morning. I have many books on travel, but would rate this as one of the finest that I have ever had the pleasure in reading. It really brought to life my contacts with 3Y0PI and if you haven't yet got it, treat yourself (or better still let the XYL treat you), Bren still has some copies left via the DXNS office, and they will be on sale at the Beaumont Centre in October during the Convention. I am eagerly awaiting the release of the video, there has been one released by Peter ON6TT who will be at the Convention, but I gather there is an another one coming out of the States. If its as good as the VP8SSI (even if it was short) video it will be worth putting in my collection.

I had great pleasure in having a rag chew with Tony HS0/G4UAV from his Bangkok QTH the other day and he sends greetings to all, I mentioned that I had received his cheque for £10.00 for membership, he then said that he suddenly remembered that it should have been £15.00 for overseas members. Needless to say your ever watchful treasurer was listening in, and later made contact with Tony, just to remind him about the extra!!.

In the last newsletter Neville asked for volunteers at the Convention, CDXC is very much in the fore at this Convention, and if things go wrong it reflects not on the RSGB but on the individuals who make up the Committee. If you can spare a few hours to help shift screens, sell raffle tickets, man the CDXC desk, or any of the many little items which crop up during an event such as this it would be much appreciated. I look forward to meeting many of you again at the Convention. 73 and Gd DX. Dave

LETTERS

Dear Alan

I was very surprised to read in the last CDXC Newsletter that at least one member had not renewed his subscription because he felt that CDXC was "QRO".

It disturbs me that the Club should be seen as only promoting QRO because the term is, essentially, indefinable. Compared to the milliwatt man, the guy running 100 watts is "QRO". Equally, for the DXer running the full gallon, 100 watts is pretty puny power.

The founders of CDXC were all True-Blue DXers who operated beefy stations. Nevertheless, some of them (the writer included) enjoyed engaging in low power experiments given the opportunity. For example during the late 1970's peak conditions, it was fun to see how far one could back off the power and still get S9 reports from KH6 on 10m! I recall getting S5 with nothing showing on the monitorscope!! On another occasion, the writer worked Henry, G3GIQ on 10m running a handful of watts - but on the LONG PATH! I also enjoyed working a VK operator standing on his boat in Sydney Harbour - I was running a few hundred watts, but he was using a 2 watt hand-held to put an S9 signal to me, again on 10m. Running low power to a hand-held rig and talking to someone half-way round the world is magic, but when it comes to beating pile-ups for a "new one" one *has* to resort to the "active ATU"!

I guess those who have left CDXC because they believe the Club to be "QRO" are not serious DXers. The Club exists to serve all HF DXers, irrespective of whether they favour QRO, QRP, CW, SSB, Slow-Scan, RTTY, AMTOR, etc., etc. The same conditions apply to us all - we enjoy working rare DX stations, and working toward our respective DXing goals.

Remember: "Life is too short for QRP", but CDXC is not too QRO to accommodate *all* HF DXers.

Brendan J McCartney
Founder Member

Letter to G4PFF from HB9KT

Dear OM

The first year of my membership is coming to a close.

With much interest and enthusiasm I have read the several issues of your Newsletter. I am very much surprised of so much motivation and engagement among the hams in G-land, and the DX activity of some club members is most remarkable.

The operating skills (I hope the expression is correct) of Roger, G3SXW, on Tristan da Cunha last autumn were just outstanding, a brilliant demonstration of deserving.

You find my subscription fee (£15) enclosed.

While I am at the HF Convention in October, I would be pleased to meet you.

With the best 73 I remain

Dave

GB301OTA

Yes - that's the very special call for this year's Convention, celebrating IOTA's 30th Birthday - that's *three zero one* not *three zero india* - it should attract lot's of attention, so if you'd like to use it from your QTH, please let me (G3PMR) know *immediately*. Please let me know preferred days of the week. Logs *must* be supplied to me on floppy - any logging software that can output an ASCII file is ok (even a text editor) or any of SHACKLOG, Turbolog, G3WGV, K1EA, or EI5DI.

The licence runs from 18 September to 15 October. This is a very special call, so please only ask for a day if you can give the call a really good airing. I shall be issuing the necessary paperwork to raise an NOV - remember that it is *illegal* to use the call until you have the NOV. Offers to activate the call on 80m prior to the Convention, just below (but not in!) the DX Window would be most welcome.

Enjoy the pile ups!

DX CALENDAR *tnx DXNS*

Til Sep?	TT8 by F5OIJ
Til Sep 4	EU-048
Til Sep 10	TK3 calls
Til Sep 12	S61 prefix
Til Sep 25	EX by UA4s
Til Oct 25	HB4JAM
Til Oct 31	VI4WWA
Til Nov ?	9X by VE3MJQ
Til Nov	Zn 2 VE8/VE2BQB
Til Dec	4L1HX by IK2BHX
Til Dec	DL9GMM/5N0
Til Dec 31	8J3KYO
Til Feb 95	3D2QB
Til Aug 95	ET3JR by FD1PJQ
Til 1996	AF-032 5H1JB
Til Aug 96	FH by F5CQ
Aug ??	FR/G
Aug 24-27	KH6/I4ALU
Aug 24-31	P4 by JA's
Aug 26-28	OC-??? IOTA
Aug 26-30	TU by K4ZLE
Aug 27-30	SA-052
Aug 28-30	W6/I4ALU
Aug 31-Sep 6	KH0/JH1UUT
Sep 1-15	3A50 prefix
Sep 1-Dec 31	OS prefix
Sep 1-Dec 31	OS0OST
Sep 2-4	OC-140
Sep 2-4	TM0PDC
Sep 2-12	ZG pfx by ZB
Sep 2-16	SA-047
Sep 3-4	All Asian SSB Ctst
Sep 3-4?	LZ DX CW Contest
Sep 3-4	EU-157
Sep 3-5	PY0ZFB
Sep 3-9	AF-019
Sep 3-11	NA-046
Sep 5-7	TM2V
Sep 7-10	VK9IG/C
Sep 9-13	5W by JA's
Sep 10-11	WAE SSB Contest
Sep 12-17	NA-111
Sep 18-Oct15	**GB301OTA**
Sep 17-19	Scandinavian CW Ctst
Sep 17-26	IU0YL
Sep 18-25	Sp VE calls
Sep 24-25	Scandinavian SSB Ct
Sep 24-25	OO-0R pfx
Sep 24-25	CQ WW RTTY Contest
Sep 27-Oct 18	SV9/GM3YOR
Oct	FT5XH QRV again
Oct	P29 is by I4LCK
Oct 1-2	VK/ZL/Oceania SSB Ct
Oct 7	GMDX MEETING
Oct 7-9	HF/IOTA CONVENTION
Oct 8-9	VK/ZL/Oceania CW Cts
Oct 15-16	TM5LOR
Oct 16	RSGB 10/15m CW Ctst
Oct 29-30	CQ WW SSB Contest
Nov 12-13	WAE RTTY Contest
Nov 19-20	Austrian CW Contest
Nov 19-20	RSGB 160m CW Ctst
Nov 26-27	CQ WW CW Contest
Dec 3-4	ARRL 160m Contest
Dec 10-11	ARRL 10m Contest
1995	FT-Z
Jan 95	SOUTH GEORGIA

WHITTON AMATEUR RADIO GROUP DXPEDITION TO C56

In late October/November, members of the Whitton Amateur Radio Group will be mounting a DXpedition to The Gambia (C56). The group will participate in the CQWW SSB Contest on 29/30 October using the call sign **C56DX**, and will use the call sign **C56/G0MRF** at other times.

The group says they will concentrate on most wanted bands/modes. The QTH will be located within a few metres of the sea, and will be running maximum legal power on 160m-10m. Antennas will include a quarter wave vertical for 80m, and a 5/8 wavelength for 30m.

DATES:	23 October to 7 November.
CALLSIGN	C56DX for CQWW C56/G0MRF at other times
QSL	Via G0MRF, direct or via bureau. Note that in call books prior to 1992, G0MRF is listed as G8PDW.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1994/95
HAVE YOU PAID ?

As of the 22nd August the following subscriptions have been received by G4PFF.

BRS47426, G/OZ7SM, G0DQS, G0GKH, G0GLB, G0GRK, G0HGW, G0HXN, G0TKN, G0LMX, G0MMI, G2BJK, G3COJ, G3ESY, G3EZZ, G3FKM, G3GIQ, G3HCT, G3KMA, G3NBC, G3NOB, G3NOF, G3NOH, G3NUG, G3OZF, G3PMR, G3RTE, G3RUR, G3SJX, G3SNN, G3SWH, G3TLG, G3UOF, G3USX, G3VXJ, G3VXZ, G3XMZ, G3XTT, G3YBT, G3ZBA, G4AFJ, G4AZN, G4DQW, G4IPR, G4IUF, G4MUT, G4NXG, G4PFF, G4RTO/ON9CCQ G4SVB, G4TNB, G4WVX, G4YRR, GM0EGI, HB9KT, HS0/G4UAV, K3ZO

IMPORTANT TO THOSE PAYING BY STANDING ORDER

The following members previously paid by Standing Order but those may have lapsed as some were initiated for 3 Years only.

Please check your bank statements and let me know if any have been debited and not listed above as paid. Otherwise please send your subscriptions by cheque ***as soon as possible*** to G4PFF. (Address on front cover) Subscriptions are 10 Pounds for U.K. members and 15 Pounds for all Overseas members this year. 5B4MF, G0MGM, G3AEZ, G3GAF, G3LZQ, G3NKQ, G3NKS, G3PSM, G3UML, G3VOF, G3WGN, G3WGV, G3ZAY, G4BUE, G4CCZ, G4DII, G4DYO, G4LJF, G4UZN, GM4UZY.

CONGRATULATIONS!...

...to CDXC member Bill Ricalton, G4ADD, who recently received his No. 1 Honor Roll certificates for both SSB and Mixed. Well done Bill!

SOUTH GEORGIA

Al Hernandez (WA3YVN), together with WA4VQD, and others will mount a major DXpedition to South Georgia for 3 weeks in January, on all bands/modes. QSL manager is WA4FRU.

In the last Most Wanted Country survey conducted by The DX Magazine South Georgia was at No.24 in the European list. Since that survey was conducted there have been major operations from at least four places above South Georgia, and some small-time operations from several others. It is likely, therefore, that South Georgia will probably be up around No.18 when the results of the next survey are published.

The last operation of any note was by the VP8SSI team, which made 5,000 QSOs in April, 1992. There have been numerous small-time operations by visiting servicemen and scientists but this forthcoming DXpedition looks like being the biggest for over a decade.

The expected cost of the operation is $50-60,000. Contributions may be made to:

SGI DXpedition
PO Box 2235
Melbourne
FL 32902
USA.

At a meeting on August 20th, the CDXC Committee agreed to donate £200 in support of this operation. Al has asked that CDXC members give the DXpedition full support - presumably he means with transport/accommodation if/when the team passes through the UK. More info on this when it's available.

DX EDGE

Stocks of the plastic version of DX EDGE are now available from RSGB HQ.

ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION

Bruce Gilson, G4WVX

Space does not permit inclusion of the full rules, so an abbreviated version is shown, together with the source of that information - thanks go to RadCom, QST and CQ magazines. For those that do not have access to these comics, I can supply a copy of the rules as published. Some of the details are from the previous year, as the latest rules have often not been published in the comics in time for inclusion here. I may well have more recent versions of the rules nearer the actual contest date.

Sep 10/11 **European DX - WAE (Phone)** (CQ Aug 94)

1200-2400Z RS+Serial QTCs 80-10m
Single-Op all-band, max 30 hours, Multi-Op single & multi-Tx, SWL
Work non-EU only. 4x mults on 80m, 3x on 40m, 2x on 20, 15 & 10m

Sep 24/25 **CQWW DX (RTTY)** (CQ Jul 94)

0000-2400Z RST+CQ Zone (UK=14) 80-10m
Single-Op single band; Single-Op all-band high power(>150W)/low power (<150W)
Single-Op assisted all-band
Multi-Op single Tx high power(>150W)/low power(<150W); Multi-Op multi-Tx
Modes: Baudot, Ascii, AMTOR (FEC & ARQ), Packet. Work everyone

Oct 01/02 **VK-ZL-OC DX (Phone)** (RC Oct 93)

1000-1000Z RS+Serial 160-10m Work VK/ZL/OC only

Oct 02 **21/28 MHz (Phone)** (RC Jun 94)

0700-1900Z RS+Serial+County Code UK work non-UK, non-UK work UK
Operating frequencies 21.150-21.350 MHz & 28.450-29.000 MHz only

Oct 16 **21/28 MHz (CW)** (RC Jun 94)

0700-1900Z RST+Serial+County Code UK work non-UK, non-UK work UK
No operating between 21.075 MHz & 21.125 MHz

Oct 29/30 **CQWW DX (Phone)** (RC Oct 93)

0000-2400Z RS+CQ Zone (UK=14) 160-10m
Single-Op single & multi-band, Multi-Op single & multi-Tx
QRP (Max 5W output), work everyone

As usual, any suggestions for inclusion here and contest sites etc are gladly welcomed. I can be contacted via DX Cluster (@GB7DXI), the BBS system (@GB7DEO), and The Internet (Bruce@g4wvx.demon.co.uk) in addition to the details published in the newsletter.

CQWW SSB 1993 RESULTS

UK PacketCluster Network

From: G3LZQ Date: 24-Aug 2050Z

Courtesy of CQ Magazine Sept and to K3EST es the crew the UK High Flyers from last October fun weekend. Remember these are only High Score for UK in Europe/World List

Single Op High Power Sections:		Q Z C
GW4BLE	4,366,124 (5th Europe)	3306/116/450
G3NAS	3,196,200 (8th Europe)	2504/116/409
GI0KOW	2,997,225 (9th Europe)	3153/106/419
GJ0SLY	2,709,760 (10th Europe	2457/ 99/365 (Op K3RV)

No UK Stations appear in Top-6 listing for Eu on 28 or 21Mhz

GM3WOJ	818,380 (6th Europe) 14Mhz	2165/40/130 (Op GM4YXI)
GW8GT	756,000 (Near Miss!) 14Mhz	2300/37/113 (Op GW0MAW)
G3NLY	558,927 (2nd Eu/ 5th World) 7Mhz	1816/37/126
GM0ECO	183,162 (3rd Eu/ 3rd World) 3.5Mhz	1400/19/ 79

Single Op Low Power (100W)

GI0SAP	355,540 (3rd Eu/ 4th World) 14Mhz	1258/25/91

No Multiop-Single Tx no UK Stations appear in Europe Top-6
Two leading scores as they are so close...

GB2AA	3,439,884	2787/136/515
G0SDX	2,977,856	2662/107/369

NOW THE BIG-ONE

In the MULTI-OP/MULTI-TX SECTION **G0KPW 1st in Europe!! 4th in World!!**
Mind you only just...in a score of 18.7 Million Points ,they held off HG73DX by a mere 65,000 Points..Phew Close.. A Super effort in perhaps the hardest nut to crack

How about the scoring?

Band	G0KPW	HG73DX
160M	930/11/ 69	517/ 8/ 60
80M	1126/21/101	1653/25/105
40M	1674/39/149	1806/34/124
20M	2579/39/159	2755/40/148
15M	2488/40/173	2611/39/153
10M	881/26/152	923/34/132
Score	18,718,332	18,653,271

PS G0KPW also are the European Trophy Winners
73's John

IOTA Contest 1994
Les Iles Minquiers
Don Beattie G3OZF

It was some time in early 1994 when I first started to think about the 1994 IOTA contest. The inaugural 1993 contest had been such a success that it was clear that the IOTA Contest was here to stay. This offered the opportunity for amateurs over the world to operate in "dx-pedition" type locations and provide a useful fillip to the level of activity in this unique contest.

I had considered many options for an island for operation. Locations in 9M2, HS0, TK, YB had been assessed, but all had been discounted for various reasons. Then, one day, Steve, G4JVG, just back from P29DX, said "how about the Minkies?". I knew little of this small group of islands, but the more Steve talked about them, the more it appeared a real possibility. We studied detailed photographs and video, and concluded that it was a location just waiting for a dx-pedition, and that radio propagation should be outstanding from a location with 360 degree water surround.

Les Iles Minquiers lie about halfway between Jersey and the North coast of France. They comprise a group of rocky outcrops, almost covered at high tide, but with an enormous land mass at low water. And they are, uniquely, "EU 099" for IOTA.

The main island, "Maitresse Ile" is about 300m long and some 50 metres wide. It rises about 30 metres out of the sea, and has a few rough cottages on it, owned by Jersey folk. The approach to the island is treacherous, and most mariners avoid the dangers of these waters. Access to the islands is best achieved with the help of a local seafarer, who knows the currents and rock formations of the archipelago.

Steve was uniquely placed in that he had been to the Minkies in 1988, and knew who to contact for transport to the islands. Not only this, but on further investigation, it became clear that we could have the use of the States of Jersey building on the Island, as well as the cottage belonging to the Jerseyman who would provide transport.

And so planning began. We decided early on that we would make this a relatively serious effort. None of the 100 watts barefoot to a trap dipole. We would take a beam, rotator, linear, and suitable LF antennas. In all, it came to a lot of equipment - allowing for back-up units in case of failure. And so it was on 28th July that our two cars left Weymouth aboard MV Havelet, fully loaded with bits for a "serious" effort in IOTA. The team comprised Steve and myself, plus my XYL Chris, and our daughter Helen. There had been some suggestion that Chris and Helen would stay on Jersey, but when Steve and I realised that we could not get the beam up without four people, plans were quickly changed! In the event, they both agree they would not have missed the experience of the trip for anything.

After a calm overnight crossing we were in Jersey, and spent the day acquiring the pieces of equipment we were to collect from Jersey. Most importantly a 3.5 kW generator, and other bits for the power distribution system.

Friday 29th July was hot, sunny and almost a flat calm. We took about half an hour to load the equipment on to the small boat which would take us to the island. The crossing, in perfect conditions, took about 90 minutes, and then we were there - or nearly. There is no landing stage suitable for any sized boat, so we had to manhandle the equipment into rubber dinghies, and across about 100m of water to the slipway. All went smoothly, and by about 2.30 p.m. we were on the island, together with all the equipment.

Now going to a remote island means you can leave nothing to chance. We had checked

and double-checked the inventory prior to departure and in the event, all was complete, and the station went together as planned. The heat was intense, but we set to work getting the antennas up. A trap dipole went up the flagpole to about 35 ft high, in inverted-vee shape. In reality it was about 100 ft above the water, with a clear view in every direction. The beam went up only 26ft on its poles, but had an effective height above water of some 80 or 90 ft.

We used a Mosley Mustang (my old beam, pre-TH6, cut down for easy dx-pedition packing) together with a rotator, the trap dipole and the trusty Butternut HF6V. 100 metre runs of coax to opposite ends of the island spaced the antennas out sensibly.

For electronics, we had a pair of FT 890s, a TL922, digital voice and cw keyers, two computers and all the associated bits. For logging we used Paul's "Super Duper" for IOTA94.

Early teething troubles were that the beam was way off resonance on 20 metres. A few trials showed that the driven element traps were off tune, and after a few tries, we got resonance to 14260!! We also found a minor problem with the rotator control unit, traced to a loose earthing tag inside the control box. Once these problems were rectified, the equipment worked faultlessly. No need for the stand by generator, the spare FT890 or the second computer. But if we had not taken spares, I wonder if it would have been the same story!

Once everything was assembled, a quick transmission on 20 metres on Friday evening brought an enormous pile-up, with excellent short skip to G. Things looked good for the contest. We collapsed into bed at about 23.00 exhausted, but ready for the fray the following day!

Operating was a dream. The location is very quiet, and with the benefit of water all round, the propagation was excellent. Despite appalling static on the LF bands, we were able to establish run rates of 150-200 per hour for sustained periods. During the night, the effects of the previous day's exertions began to take its toll, and apologies to anyone who got a less than a coherent reply in the early hours of Sunday morning!

At about 05.00, the weather broke, with an almighty thunder storm. Steve was happily operating and I was asleep in the cottage, when the lightening began to strike the outlying islands of the group. I ran to the shack to suggest that Steve should stop for a while, and we closed down and slept for two hours, whilst the fireworks continued. This must have cost us a considerable number of QSOs, but was unavoidable. At about 07.30, the storm had passed, and we resumed operations.

All too soon, the boat arrived to collect us. At 12.00 Sunday we ceased operation, and by 15.00 were packed and ready to haul all the equipment back on to the boat by dinghy. We finally arrived back on Jersey at around 17.30 GMT - tired but satisfied that it had all worked out well.

The results ? We made nearly 1800 QSOs, with a points score of nearly 2.2M. It's not easy to compare this with last year, because of rule changes. But we are happy that we have turned in a creditable score which should put us in a reasonable position.

Our trip could not have been possible without the kind help of many Jersey folk - amateurs and others - who were so accommodating to our needs. The whole trip was a delight, and we hope to do it again some time.

3Y0PI Peter 1 Island, Antarctica.

Copies of this amazing book can be obtained at a cost of £27.00 (Cheques payable to B. J. McCartney) from: *DXNS Office, 123 Reading Road, Finchampstead, Wokingham, RG11 4RD.* Any surplus copies will be available from CDXC at the HF/IOTA convention.

See review by VK9NS in this Newsletter

FIELD DAY IN THE U.S.A.

Christopher J. Page G4BUE

It had been one of my ambitions to operate in the U.S. Field Day and when, at Dayton this year, my friends in the Kentucky Contest Group said they were short of CW operators, then 1994 seemed the year to do it.

The Rules

U.S. Field Day should appeal to those who deplore the use of 59(9) in contests because there is no signal report in the exchange! The exchange is your entry category and your ARRL Section. The category consists of a number, indicating the number of transmitters used and a letter to show the type of operation:-

A = portable stations with more than two operators with a QRP sub-category using five watts or less from battery power.

B = as A but with two or less operators, including the QRP sub-category.

C = mobile operation including motor vehicle, maritime and aeronautical mobiles.

D = home stations using commercial power, i.e. their normal station.

E = home stations using emergency power, i.e. their normal station but with a generator.

Here then is a major difference from our Field Day; home stations are not only encouraged to take part but have two specific categories. Can we learn something from this to help increase participation in our Field Days?

All the stations in Groups A and B must be located within a circle not exceeding 300 metres diameter. This can become pretty crowded as the largest category listed in the 1993 results was 20A (20 transmitters!) and this year I heard a 26A! All transmitters operate with the same call sign. A and B Groups can use a Novice/Technician station and a VHF station in addition to the main transmitters, without changing the basic classification. (The USA have different grades of amateur licence of which the Novice and Technician are the first two.)

Group A, B and C stations can make contacts with any station but those in Groups D and E can only contact stations in Groups A, B and C. CW QSOs count two points and SSB QSOs count one point. Stations can be contacted on each mode on each band. The final score is the total of QSO points multiplied by the power multiplier, (1 in excess of 150 watts, 2 if under 150 watts and 5 for 5 watts or less). Bonus points are available to be added to the final score, as follows:-

1. Using 100% emergency power: 100 points for each transmitter used independent from the commercial mains.

2. Public relations: 100 bonus points for each of operating in a public place, making a genuine attempt to obtain publicity and having an information booth/display to give out information about the station and Field Day.

3. Message origination: 100 points for originating a message addressed to the ARRL Section Manager.

4. Message relay: 10 points for each message received and relayed up to a maximum of 100 points.

5. Satellite QSO: 100 points for completing at least one QSO via satellite.

6. Natural power: 100 points for making a minimum of five QSOs using natural power.

7. W1AW message: 100 points for copying the special message transmitted by W1AW (ARRL HQ Station) during Field Day.

8. Packet radio: 100 points for completing at least one QSO on packet radio, (includes the DX PacketCluster!).

9. VHF/UHF: 100 points for completing at least ten QSOs on 50MHz or above.

The amount of organisation required to take maximum advantage of the scoring system and bonus points is quite staggering. Like the United Kingdom, some groups take part just to enjoy themselves without any chance of winning whilst others are more competitive and go all out to win. The Kentucky Contest Group is in this latter category.

Preparation

Field Day starts at 1800z on the Saturday of the last week-end in June and lasts for 24 hours or 27 hours! You are permitted to start setting up your station during the 24 hour period before the start, in which case you operate for 24 hours. If you delay setting up until the actual start time then you can operate for 27 hours.

Like most other entrants, the Kentucky Contest Group set up during the preceding 24 hours. Groups not setting up until the start usually have one of their operators start making QSOs from a mobile set-up whilst the others get the main station(s) assembled as quickly as possible. They then operate the full 27 hours but the number of stations still active during the last three hours is minimal due to the majority opting for the 24 hour period.

1800z is 2pm local time in Kentucky and from lunch time on the Friday members of the Kentucky Contest Group started arriving at the site, depending on when they were able to make their excuse to quit work early! The group consisted of Dave, K4TO; Chris, KU4A; Bill, N4AR (whose call sign is used); Torsen, N4OGW; Mark, N4OKX, Tyler, N4TY; Dave, ND4Y and Bob, KB4RIU. Bob is an elderly gentleman who has been a member of the Kentucky Contest Group for several years and provides the Novice/Technician station.

For the past several years, the Group have operated from a barn in a field in Jessamine County about 15 miles Southwest of Lexington with a 3.5kVA Honda generator. Operation is in the 2A category which means two main HF stations plus Novice and VHF stations together with satellite and packet capability.

Antennas and Equipment

There is no restriction on antennas and I was surprised to learn the group rely on simple wire antennas - vee beams about 40 feet high, fed with open wire feeder and tuned with an ATU. As most of the activity is on 20, 40 and 80 metres within North America, gain antennas are not necessary. Appropriate trees had been identified from previous years and the wires were quickly in place. A trapped dipole for the novice bands was erected for the Novice station.

A check of WWV and the DX PacketCluster earlier that day indicated there was a good chance of Sporadic E conditions over the weekend. A decision was made to erect a two element beam for 10 metres on the VHF mast, a simple 30 feet tubular mast. This mast also held a five element Yagi for

50MHz and a 12 element Yagi for 144MHz and was rotateable.

The two main HF stations used a Ten-Tec Omni VI and an Icom IC765, the Novice/Technician station used a Kenwood TS940 and the VHF station used a Yaesu FT726 for 2 and 6 metres and a TS850 for satellite. A 2 metre handheld was used to gain access to the local DX PacketCluster using an antenna on a mast kept vertical by being strapped to a farm tractor!

Computer logging was used with CT linking the two main HF stations and a separate computer running CT on the Novice station. Paper logging was to be used on the VHF station in view of the low number of QSOs usually made, a decision which was to be regretted!

Saturday morning saw the sun shining in a cloudless blue sky and the temperature quickly reached the high 80s. This is real Field Day weather I thought as I helped push up the VHF mast dressed in just a pair of shorts. In addition to the speculation about Sporadic E on 6 and 10 metres the talk was whether a portable air conditioner should be used to keep the barn cool. An air conditioner on Field Day! This really is different from England!

The generator was kicked into life and the rigs switched on. After checking the SWR on the antennas the computers were switched on and eventually we had the two HF stations 'talking' to each other. We were in that nice position of having everything ready and working and still two hours before the start. I had a listen on 6 metres and could hear a W4 station in Florida working England! The Florida station was coming through on Sporadic E but I couldn't hear the English station. This was the difference in propagation between Florida and Kentucky, 800 miles further west but still in the same call area!

We're Off!

1800z arrived and we were off! Being new to U.S. Field Day I opted to observe to begin with to enable me to pick up the procedures and get the 'feel' of things before going on the air. Our strategy was to concentrate on CW QSOs in view of the double points and so Tyler and Torsen started with the two HF stations on the low end of 15 and 20 metres, while the Novice station started on 10 metres and the VHF station on 6 metres, both on SSB.

Almost immediately the small barn was a hive of frantic activity. Both 10 and 6 metres were full of Sporadic E signals and as the operators were sitting within three feet of each other, the noise from that corner of the barn was quite loud! Listening to a pile-up of S9 SSB Californian signals on 6 metres while Bill was teaching Bob how to handle a big pile-up on 10 metres, was quite an experience! Meanwhile, on the computer screen CT was showing that CW QSOs were being made at an equally good rate. This was an impressive start I thought.

After a couple of hours I took over the 20 metre station, by which time Torsen had changed from 15 to 40 metres because the rate was quicker there. We were 'running' them (holding a frequency with stations continually calling us), and at first it seemed strange answering stations without giving a signal report. (I had always believed that a QSO was not valid until call signs and signal reports had been exchanged!) I soon got into the habit of just sending "2A KY".

All four stations maintained a good rate during the afternoon and early evening, but eventually the Sporadic E conditions disappeared and we were left with the two main stations. Bob occasionally tuned through the Novice sections of the 40 and 80 metre bands and made a few CW QSOs, but most of the CW activity was in the lower parts of the bands. By the end of Saturday both the Novice and VHF stations had made

more QSOs than in the whole of previous Field Days, and we still had Sunday to go! Speculation started as to whether Sporadic E would return the following day, Chris and Mark worked out the timings for the satellite QSOs and Bill and I settled down to look after 40 and 80 metres through the small hours.

SSB

Around 4am, the rate on both bands started dropping and we decided to give SSB a try. Bill was using the IC765 on 80 metres and I had the Omni VI on 40 metres. Bearing in mind that Bill and I normally only operate on CW and we are both Omni VI owners, when I tell you it took us 20 minutes to get the Omni VI working with VOX on SSB, you will realise how limited our collective SSB experience is! The moral of this is that good Field Day planning in the USA ensures you always have one CW and one SSB operator available. As it turned out, the rate on SSB was not much better and we quickly returned to the low ends. This was primarily due to the very loud static crashes, common in the USA in the summer and much worse than we experience in Europe. We were able to limit the effect on CW with the extra filtering we were using on both rigs.

At one point, when we were both sitting next to each other shouting into our microphones, we wondered what our colleagues in the First Class CW Operators' Club would have made of the scene! Fortunately, the others in our Group were sleeping and were not around to photograph us!

Sunday Morning

A check of 6 metres about 8.30am on Sunday revealed a VE1 station coming through at good strength. This was an indication that the band was going to open up again, and if it did, then surely 10 metres must do the same. I went off for a few hours sleep and when I returned about midday both the Novice and VHF stations were in full swing again. I could tell Chris and Mark were pleased with their 6 metre performance as they were moaning about having to make up a hurried manual dupe sheet to keep track of all the QSOs they had made! They had even made six QSOs on 2 metres.

The special Field Day message from W1AW had been copied, a message sent to the Kentucky Section Manager and Tyler was making the 32nd packet QSO through the DX PacketCluster! The mood of the group was one of satisfaction as everything was going well.

Mark and Torsen then made a CW and SSB QSO through RS12 and RS13 with WB5LIN and WT1T, going up on 15 metres and down on 10. This was very interesting to watch as I had not seen QSOs made through a satellite before.

The End

I went back on 20 metres and when it all suddenly ended at 1800z, the rate was still as good as it was when we had started 24 hours previously. Such is USA Field Day. The level of participation is tremendous and much higher than anything I have experienced in Europe.

A quick analysis of the logs revealed over 3,100 QSOs and a score about 1,000 points up on the previous year, when the group made 2610 QSOs and came 11th out of the 636 entries in the 2A Class. It was agreed the weekend had been a great success. With nearly 600 QSOs (505 of them on 10m SSB) on the Novice station, Bob said that although he was very tired, he had a ball as this was the highest score he had ever made. The 193 QSOs on 6m was another all time high for the Group, just 30 were made last year.

Murphy? Yes, we had a visit once. When Bob was going flat out on the 10m Novice station, his computer screen suddenly went blank! A panicky shout caused Tyler, the

computer expert, to quickly come to the rescue by re-booting the computer from a floppy disk, and all was well again.

Claimed Score

The breakdown of QSOs is shown in the table. Our claimed score is 10,526 points (multiplier of 2 for our power and 700 bonus points for VHF, satellite, packet, etc.).

Note the absence of QSOs on 160 metres, a far different cry from the U.K. where points on that band in NFD score double. With so many stations to work on 40 and 80 metres, very few of the Field Day groups spend time putting up the large antennas needed for Top Band. Although the rules allow activity on 18 and 24MHz we didn't even check those bands.

Why is it so Popular?

Several colleagues in the U.K. said afterwards that despite listening for us, they did not hear us. This is due to the very high level of participation in U.S. Field Day. Only two of our 3,143 QSOs were outside North America. There is so much activity within the USA and Canada that only the larger groups need look to DX stations for QSOs.

In the 1993 Field Day there were 39,552 amateurs manning 2,086 Field Day sites. There were 1,940 entries which reported 962,580 SSB QSOs and 529,288 CW QSOs for a total of 1.49 million contacts. Participation has been steadily increasing in recent years.

Why is there so much more enthusiasm and participation in the U.S. Field Day than for Field Days in the U.K.? I have already mentioned categories for home stations, but could the other reason be the lead taken by the ARRL to promote Field Day?

The May 1994 QST devoted one and half pages to announcing Field Day and setting out the rules whilst the announcement in the February 1994 Radio Communication for NFD consisted of a two inch column in a bottom corner of the Contest Classified page.

The ARRL devoted 15 pages, plus the cover of the November 1993 QST to the results and write-up of Field Day, including 39 photographs (24 in colour). There was also a two page article about using satellites on Field Day and an article on how a Section Manager spends Field Day. Compare that with the report and write-up of NFD and SSB Field Day by the R.S.G.B. in Radio Communication. 3 pages and 6 photographs for NFD and half a page and one photograph (albeit on the cover) for SSB Field Day. (I haven't included VHF Field Day as the ARRL also have a separate Field Day with a similar size report and write-up in QST).

Band	CW QSOs	CW Points	SSB QSOs	SSB Points
80	248	496	73	73
40	615	1230	252	252
20	488	976	115	115
15	240	480	33	33
10	65	130	195	1
6	0	0	193	193
2	0	0	6	6
Novice Stn	81	162	505	505
Satellite	1	2	1	1
Packet	32	64	0	0
TOTAL	1770	3540	1373	1373

3143 QSOs and 4912 points

RSGB 1994 International HF and IOTA Convention & IOTA's 30th Birthday Party

Dates: 7, 8 & 9 October 1994.

Location: The Beaumont Conference Centre, Old Windsor, Berks located close to the M25 and Heathrow Airport.

Programme:

Friday 7 October Evening
IOTA's 30th Birthday Party

Saturday 8 October Day
Transceivers - G3SJX; IOTA Director's Address - G3KMA; First 100 Countries - G0HSD; ZD9SXW DXpedition - G3SXW; IOTA Policy Q & A; Phased Arrays for 80 and 40m. - G3PJT; VK9MM DXpedition - G3WGV; Practical LF Antennas - W1XP; Holiday Operations from Islands - K5MK; 3Y0PI DXpedition - ON6TT; Computers in the Shack - G3XTT; Antenna Circus - G3WLM.

Saturday 8 October Evening
DX Dinner

Sunday 9 October Day
Contest College - G3SJJ; RSGB and Other Awards; Computers in the Shack - G3XTT; LF Propagation - G4DBN; 3Y0PI DXpedition - ON6TT; Cluster Workshop - G4PDQ; Antenna Planning Clinic - GW4ZXG; International Goodwill Through Amateur Radio - Our World-Wide Obligation - K7ZA.

The last lecture above is a new one and replaces the data modes talk. It describes four DX operations BY1PK, 4J1FS, ZA1A and CO0FRC and the profound (and positive) impact they had in the country concerned.

Another recent addition to the programme is that US Licence Test Sessions will be held on Saturday 8 October at the Beaumont if there is sufficient demand. So if you want to obtain a US licence or to upgrade contact Yves Remedios, AC4WT/G3UDT, London ARRL-VE Team, 44 Kingsway, Wembley, HA9 7 QR. Tel: 081-902-5995 after 7.30pm.

Bookings: As at the date of writing - 10 August - over 100 rooms have now been firmly booked of the total capacity of 200. In addition to this about 30 amateurs have indicated that they are definitely going to book but have not yet done so. Traditionally August has seen a significant inflow of bookings so all those planning to stay at the Beaumont are encouraged to book soon.

Of course day visitors are very welcome, no pre-booking is necessary just turn up on either the Saturday or Sunday or both. But if day visitors want to attend the Friday evening IOTA Birthday Party and/or the Saturday evening DX Dinner please contact me and do book in advance. Plans for both events are well underway and both evenings should be very enjoyable.

In addition to the above we have a comprehensive Ladies' Programme, a number of clinics, software demonstrations and user groups, CDXC and ISWL meeting rooms, GB30IOTA station, RSGB book stand, Morse tests (bring two passport photos), raffle for TS-50S Transceiver and other goodies and a DX Quiz.

If anyone still needs information please do not hesitate to contact me on 0442-62929 or write to Neville Cheadle, "Further Felden", Longcroft Lane, Felden, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 0BN, England.

73 Neville G3NUG

DX NEWS SHEET

No true-blue DXer would be without this weekly DX bulletin. The DX News Sheet, published by the RSGB, has been respected throughout the DX world for 32 years. Founded by famed SWL Geoff Watts, and edited by G4DYO, DXNS carries all the latest information on DXpeditions and DX activities from rare DXCC countries and IOTA islands around the world. Four A4 pages each week packed with all the information needed by an active DXer, including QSL information, a selection of band reports, up to the minute solar figures, DX Calendar, mini-articles about DX operations, and much more. For information about subscription rates and a free sample copy, please contact RSGB HQ.

Edited by a DXer for DXers! - You can't afford to be without DX News Sheet!

RSGB HF CONVENTION STATION

Tony Canning, G0OPB

This year I have been tasked with arranging the HF Station at the RSGB HF convention, having been involved with the arrangements last year. Hopefully it will be a station we all would like to have ourselves and one where you can be sure of being heard first call, running 26dBw (400W in old money) and a nice high beam. With the special call (GB301OTA) in use it is bound to generate a few pile ups, (are you man enough to generate/control these - try you skills out). Perhaps we could arrange a challenge to find the operator to work the most countries in a one hour period on either CW or Phone, no prizes but just the prestige, (naturally OPB gets 1.5 hrs hi!).

If you haven't tried this it is great fun and generates a certain amount of rivalry, however having others looking over your shoulder can be some what disconcerting. Computer logging will be in use with possibly some automated CW sending if you're lazy like me. Those unfamiliar with computer logging are permitted a PC logging assistant.

It may be useful to spend a few moments prior to operating trying out your skills on the PC pileup simulators....be warned, that the speed can go up as you get them right, and down when you get them wrong, so you always come away defeated!!!

Want to have a go at the challenge? or just wish to operate let me know and I will provide an operating schedule, naturally those helping to set-up, takedown and loan kit etc. get precedence. So far this includes G0ORH Ken, G4RKO Barry, G3OUF David, G4XRV Rupert, G4TSM Julian and G4JVG Steve.

See you all there 73 Tony G0OPB via GB7DXI on pkt

CONVENTION - HELP NEEDED

Any CDXC members who will be at the Convention, and can help for a short time (say 1 hour) to man the CDXC room are asked to contact David, G0HXN.

Anyone who is able to help in other respects, either before or during the Convention should please contact Neville, G3NUG.

If you can host one of the visiting overseas amaturs for a night or so, please contact G3NUG.

CDXC BARBEQUE

The CDXC Barbeque was again held at the superb QTH of Maura and Herb, G/OZ7SM, on the 24th July. We were again blessed with first class weather, although storm clouds loomed in the distance, and half drowned us on the way home!

The food put on by Maura was quite outstanding, and "barbeque" doesn't amply describe the fare - banquet is a more appropriate word!

It was good to see such a turnout, and, as always, good to have a natter with so many members. CDXC members attending were:

G3PMR, G0HXN, G3NUG, G4PFF, G3XMZ, G3SNN, G3UOF/ZD8M, G4IUF GW0RTA/JA3AER, G3KDB, G3NAS, G3NKC, G3SWH, G3CAQ, G3YBT, and G3LNS, mostly with XYLs.

Also attending were ZD8LOU (step-daughter of ZD8M), and G4PDQ and his XYL.

A raffle was held to boost the CDXC DXpedition fund, won on this occasion by Colin, G3YBT.

Again, an excellent occasion, and many thanks are due to Maura and Herb for their very generous hospitality.

QSLING - THE ANSWERS?

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO
Editor DX News Sheet

Why on earth should an article about QSLing appear in the CDXC Newsletter? After all, this is the premier DX club of the UK. My experience as editor of DX News Sheet for nearly ten years has led me to believe that a large number of DXers are surprisingly ignorant about the finer points of QSLing. About 90% of all mail, phone calls, FAXes and cluster messages to DXNS are concerned with QSLing. Although this article is aimed at the newer DXer, the old hands may derive some benefit too.

Back in those dark days, long ago, when amateur radio was born, to QSL was *de rigueur*. It was the ultimate prize after the radio contact, the icing on the cake, the added bonus, the proof of a significant radio-event. Without the QSL one could never be absolutely sure that the contact had been made and QSL cards became treasured possessions. Nowadays, when amateur radio communication systems support rock-solid QSOs with every corner of the world on a day-to-day basis, such proof is hardly a necessity. However, QSLing, or confirming contacts, continues to play a vital role in our hobby; for many amateurs QSLing is a significant interest in itself with large collections of interesting QSL cards representing the work of a lifetime. For the amateur who has communicated over great distance under unusual circumstances - perhaps the VHF or HF QRP operator - the QSL card remains a desirable acquisition in true radio tradition. However, for others QSLing can be a very real burden and an intrusion on their hobby and it has been known for DXers living in rare countries to go QRT simply because they could not face the huge chore of replying to the unending requests for QSL cards.

In dealing with DXers every day for many years I am led to believe that few are interested in the QSL card for it's beauty! It's what the QSL card will bring forth in terms of DXCC endorsement which is the motivating factor in pursuing the card.

Why QSL?

Firstly, if you are not a rock-solid, 100%, 22 carat solid-gold, serious DXer please accept that DXing is a highly competitive sport. Whoever said: *"It's not a matter of life or death; it's worse than that"* in the context of serious DXing was not a million miles from the truth! Like any sportsman, the True-Blue DXer takes his interest *very* seriously but, unlike most sports, DXing can involve participation at any time of the day or night, summer or winter, spring or fall, in fact 24 hours a day 365 days a year, if one so permits. The financial outlay maybe significant - comparable with sporting/hobby activities such as golf, photography, etc. For the True-Blue DXer this hobby is beyond a simple game; he eats, drinks and sleeps DX, sometimes to the exclusion of all else when a rare DXpedition is QRV. Any DXer who has been involved in any way with one of the major DXpeditions will know exactly what we mean - DXing is almost an existence; if you need to ask why, you won't understand the answer!

Secondly, in line with other competitive activities, there are various awards available to the amateur which acknowledge his achievements. Most amateur radio award programmes are sponsored by national societies and give recognition for radio contacts with other amateurs, for example in other countries, islands, zones, counties, etc. Awards usually take the form of attractive certificates which may be proudly displayed on the shack wall, but more prestigious awards include wooden plaques, engraved plates, presentation Morse keys and similar valuable artefacts. The major award programme sponsors require QSL cards, confirming qualifying contacts for their various awards, to be submitted with initial applications (and subsequent endorsements) for their awards. Some awards are of the once-only variety, i.e. you qualify, apply for the award and, if successful, receive the certificate - end of story. Other award programmes, e.g. DXCC, IOTA, WAE, offer endorsements to

original certificates for additional qualifying contacts, or additional certificates for various categories of the award. In order to obtain endorsements, "stickers" for the original certificate , extra certificates, or to climb to the dizzy heights of Honor Roll and beyond one NEEDS the QSL cards. But how does one acquire these priceless pieces of card?

QSLing Rule 1: There are no rules in QSLing!

The usual methods of QSLing are "direct" or "via the buro", the latter being the most popular and preferred method. "Electronic QSLs", e.g. confirmation by teletype, FAX, etc., are not usually acceptable to award sponsors; they want the Real McKoy up front! Amateurs who are members of their national radio society generally have free access to the QSL Bureaux system, which operates world-wide and efficiently - albeit slowly. Basically, outgoing cards are sent to the society QSL buro where they are sorted according to destination. When a sufficient number of cards is amassed, bulk postage is employed to despatch them to society QSL Bureaux in other countries throughout the world. Incoming cards are sorted and despatched to QSL Sub-Managers for onward transmission to participating amateurs who have lodged self-addressed, stamped envelopes with the sub-manager responsible for their callsign blocks. When the envelopes are full (usually dependent upon the weight limit of the stamps on the envelope) they are posted to the anxiously waiting amateurs. It does not take a maths degree to appreciate that the whole procedure can take a l-o-n-g time and QSL cards sent through the bureaux system have taken several years to reach their destinations. Of course, miracles do happen and there are records of cards arriving "via the buro" within a few weeks of the QSO, but this is not the norm. The newly licensed, fairly active, amateur who uses the bureaux system from square one can expect to wait about six months before receiving the first envelope from his Sub-Manager. Subsequent envelopes should arrive every six weeks or so, depending on how much time the Sub-Manager has available because, remember, he is a *volunteer* with house, family and other interests to pursue when he is not stuffing envelopes with cards!

Many amateurs QSL via the bureaux automatically; most do so intelligently but others simply overload the system, for example by sending cards to amateurs in countries which do not have a national bureau. There are contest operators who automatically QSL every contact without considering the workload generated by such action; thousands of cards are sent for contacts with countries already confirmed many times over - to what purpose? Moreover, a significant number of amateurs do not participate in the bureaux system - either because they are not members of their national societies or because they simply do not indulge in QSLing. Lastly, the phrase *"OK OM, QSL 100% via the buro"* is frequently used by amateurs in foreign parts who speak little English as part of their normal QSO technique; they certainly don't mean it! As a combined result of these factors many millions of cards are destroyed each year, for which reason the oft quoted: *"A QSL is the final courtesy of a QSO"* is somewhat out of touch with today's amateur radio activities.

The alternative - "direct QSLing" - the only method available to amateurs who have no access to bureau facilities - can be very costly compared to the bureau. However, DXers frequently QSL important contacts on a direct basis in an effort to ensure that they will obtain that much-needed card without having to endure the lengthy bureau process. The method is simple: obtain the name and address of the DX operator from the Callbook, or preferably from one of the regular DX publications, send him/her your QSL card, an adequately sized self-addressed envelope plus sufficient funds for return postage, and await the reply. "Sufficient funds for return postage" can take several forms: either stamps from the DX country are placed on the SAE - making it an "SASE", IRCs (International Reply Coupons - the amateurs' currency) or money is enclosed to cover the return postage costs. In theory, one IRC should be exchanged by all post offices in the UPU for stamps to the value of minimum-

rate air mail to all other UPU countries. However, some post offices demand more than one IRC and others will not accept them at all. Also, if you purchase IRCs at a post office you will end up paying much more than the return postage. Experience proves that either a stamped envelope or hard currency work better than IRCs. For example, one US dollar - universally referred to as a "green stamp" pays for air mail postage for a QSL card from most countries to most other countries, leaving some small change for the DX station. (Caution: postage rates are changing all the time and from some countries minimum air mail rates now exceed $1). In theory one simply has to follow the above rules and that mega-rare QSL will arrive by return of post. However, try to be patient because replies to direct cards have taken twenty-five years to arrive! A card received by the writer direct, ten years after a direct application, had on it the comment *"Tnx QSO - hope your wx improves"*, as if the QSO had taken place the day before. Most amateurs will respond in a reasonable period of time, but always wait for several months before sending a duplicate application. Lastly, the factor outside the control of both applicant and DX operator - mail theft. If the local postie here in England lays a hand on a letter addressed to somebody else his fate is sealed - off to the Labour Exchange as soon as he comes out of prison! Not so in some countries, where there is ample evidence of mail theft. It doesn't take long for the local postie to realise that the house with the big antenna gets lots of envelopes from far off lands containing dollar bills. When that postman's wages are but a few dollars a week the temptation to supplement his meagre income can be overwhelming. Areas to watch in this respect are South and Central America, the CIS and some African countries.

So, we've learned that a) despite fervent promises, with hands clutching hearts, not all amateurs QSL; b) those who do QSL may not participate in the buro system; c) postage to some countries is not as reliable as we have been brought up to believe! Is there yet an answer?

The QSL Manager

Consider an amateur operator in a rare DX country which has no national society - perhaps a member of a UN force, for example, who is a true DX enthusiast who wishes to give out as many contacts as possible during his short stay in the country; perhaps he is a native, but the only amateur in the country - a situation which often exists on small islands or in some Third World country, where he may have spent many years obtaining permission to operate amateur radio from a government which views the hobby as a threat to national security, etc. He only has to appear on 20m to generate huge pile-ups, but what of the QSL aspects? He may wish to spend all of the time he has available for his hobby actually communicating with other amateurs. There may be no time to deal with the bundles of cards which arrive by every post - or maybe the post is "unreliable" (see above), or maybe there *is* no post. Such amateurs often employ the services of a QSL Manager - a fellow amateur, usually in another country - who undertakes QSLing tasks for his "client". The DX station sends copies of his log at regular intervals to the manager, sometimes during regular skeds on the air, who then answers requests for cards. The majority of QSL Managers operate efficiently and honestly; some are provided with cards by the DX operator while others provide the cards themselves. Some managers will reply to cards sent via the buro, while others will only undertake direct QSLing. Some merely act as collecting points, removing QRK from the envelopes for safety then passing details to the DX station for cards to be answered locally (a method favoured by several currently active ZA amateurs). Most QSL Managers follow the procedure of replying direct if sufficient postage in enclosed, or via the buro if no return postage is sent. Some, usually those dealing with cards for many stations, prefer requests for cards for different stations to be sent separately. The fastest replies are likely to be to those amateurs who take time to follow any minor "rules" to ease the load on the manager. Again it is worth remembering that QSL Managers are *volunteers* who give their time *freely* to help YOU the DXer. Anyone who

tells you that there is money to be made out of direct QSLing is a fool - full stop.

How to QSL Direct

For Mr "Average Amateur" QSLing can be fun, but it can present a minefield of problems - especially if he is a "part-time" DXer, i.e. he indulges in pile-up chasing and ticking off the countries, but does not belong to a DX Club or subscribe to a DX bulletin, etc. He probably has an ancient copy of the International Callbook which he bought at a rally five years ago and QSLs an overly large number of contacts by the direct method. Telephone calls to DX News Sheet Office suggest that more DXers than one would suspect fall into this category - and they pay certainly pay the price!

Plenty has been written about how to fill out a QSL card. DO pay attention to the way you write the date and time. For example, 1/10/90 means 1st October 1990 to a British person, but 10th January to an American. Write the day in numbers but the month as a word; 20 November cannot possibly be misinterpreted. *Always* use GMT (UTC), never local time. *Always* use the 24 hour clock format; a QSL manager confronted with a time of "2.04" doesn't know if it is 2.04 am or 2.04 PM, or if it refers to local time or GMT. *WRITE CLEARLY.* Make life easy for the QSL Manager or DX operator receiving the card, otherwise it may go to the bottom of the pile.

Tip: If you are QSLing a rare station who is a very active DXer or contest operator don't waste time telling him how nice the weather has been, or how his signal compares with other stations in his area when he was 59+20. This advice is often given, especially to SWLs, but your card is likely to be the 1,000th one he has received from your country and will probably end up as waste paper anyway. The operator will either QSL or he won't, and the contents of the card are likely to have little effect on the situation. For the QSL Manager handling cards for a major DXpedition everything on the card except for callsign/date/time/band is "QRM".

If you work an unusual DX station (i.e. NOT VK, ZL, JA, etc.) and you want to QSL, ask the operator what his QSLing arrangements are (DON'T do this in a contest or with a major DXpedition station!). If he prefers the direct method ask if his address is OK in the Callbook (if you only have an old Callbook ask him if his address is OK in that edition), then employ the "SAE plus green-stamp" method. If he asks for cards to his QSL Manager, employ the same method but take similar precautions to ensure that you have the correct address. If you cannot check the address at the time of the QSO, consult your DX bulletin, or up-to-date QSL Manager list. Don't blindly QSL direct unless you are certain you have the correct information. You would not believe the number of DXers who telephone DXNS to complain about not receiving cards from Managers when they have used addresses from 10 year old callbooks! Then there is always the one who says: "*I sent the card direct, but if he thinks I'm sending IRCs for him to line his pockets...*"

Honest - there are G DXers (?) like that!

If you are a serious DXer and if you really want that elusive QSL card, do everything possible before posting the envelope to ensure success: Check the QSL arrangements, check the relevant address in your DX bulletin (you surely subscribe?), write the card clearly, paying special attention to date/time information, use QSL card sized envelopes - it's incredible how many people send their card in an envelope to fit, but enclose an SASE half that size! G's are the worst for this and during a spell as QSL Manager for several rare stations some years back I often had to fold cards for G stations. Lastly, DO NOT write callsigns anywhere on either envelope, regardless of destination.

QSL cards play an important part in our hobby, not just for the fanatical DXer who wishes to paper his walls with certificates, but for the average amateur as a permanent reminder of an interesting QSO or to form a QSL collection as one aspect of the diverse hobby of amateur radio. QSLing is here to stay - at least for the foreseeable future.

GB7DXH Support Group

David Evans, G3OUF
Sysop, GB7DXH

Many of the Cluster operators have formed user groups to help pay for running and new capital costs associated with the Cluster. I formed the GB7DXH Support Group rather late, in fact on 1 July 1993. Having had the benefit of the Support Group for a year this is a brief insight into the costs associated with running the Cluster.

Initially there was no annual supporters fee for GB7DXH. Those users who wished to support the operation of the Cluster were invited to make a donation to the operation of the station to meet running costs and future development. Almost all Cluster operators provided the initial setting up costs for transceivers, feeder cable, antennas, the PC and software.

During the year from 1 July, 1993 to 30 June 1994 a total of £ 773.00 was donated to GB7DXH by 51 supporters. Several supporters are honorary because of the work that they have done to help maintain or improve the station during the year. For example climbing masts, antenna work, sorting out computer problems and donations in kind.

The only consumable used by the station is electricity. At a conservative estimate the station uses 600W for the computer and 6 transceivers. At 7.42p per kW hour I have estimated that the station uses some £400 of electricity each year. Of course some of that had VAT applied since April of 1994, which is not included in the sums. This is a surprising amount perhaps, but to put it into perspective the station uses some £7.50 of electricity every week. What that does not include is the 24 hour a day, seven days a week monitoring of the Cluster by another PC. I have found that the quickest way to tell if the Cluster is down.

In addition to the cost of electricity there were 3 equipment purchases during the first year of the support group. These have been:- a) a new 386 motherboard and memory for the computer at a cost of £270, b) a second hand 1.3 GHz transceiver, for £250 and c) a 70cm antenna for £45. Thus the total expenditure on the station during the year was £965.

The new 386 motherboard replaced the original 286 board, which frankly was not coping very well with the increased usage. There was an immediate improvement in speed and reliability when the 386 motherboard was fitted in the autumn of 1993. In fact the off air time since then due to crashing can be counted in hours. There were several power cuts during the year and occasions when I have had the Cluster off the air for maintenance but again this has been kept to a minimum.

For the 1994/95 year I felt that a fixed subscription to the station would be appropriate, though of course any donation is welcome. To set a sensible amount I have used the same figure for electricity as last year and added the cost of a motherboard upgrade to a 486 at £250 and the cost of the long awaited new Cluster s/w from the USA at £50. As soon as the new software arrives from the USA I will need to upgrade to a 486 machine. I have divided these costs by the likely number of supporters. The suggested support donation for 1994/95 thus came out at £1.25 per month.

I sincerely hope that most regular Cluster users feel that supporting their local Cluster is worthwhile. I very much appreciate the donations provided to GB7DXH. It is after all one the best operating aids in existence for the dedicated operator who wants to join in the fun the Cluster can generate. To finally put the cost of the UK Cluster network into perspective consider the typical electricity bill for one station alone and multiply that by the number of stations in the network, plus many intermediate link stations. The UK Cluster network probably consumes well in excess of £10,000 worth of electricity each year. I believe that most users would want to make some contribution to help offset this cost and that non-supporters will not mind the occasional nudge!

SURFING THE INTERNET

Don Field G3XTT,
(field@btq2ec.igw.bt.co.uk)

If you haven't seen reference to the Internet in recent months you must have been living on a desert island. Set up quite a number of years ago now as a network to link research establishments in the US, the Internet has become *de facto* the principal global network for public data communications. This is primarily because of its openness. Not being run by a commercial concern, there are no restrictions on who can join in, and the amount of information available via the Internet is phenomenal. Particularly in the US, many government departments are publishing material on the Internet, and many computer companies use it as a way in which their customers can readily obtain technical advice and support. The protocol set used on the Internet is TCP/IP - Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol, which is somewhat more elaborate than the X.25 protocol most of us use on packet radio (some packeteers use TCP/IP) but allows more advanced features.

Anyway, the purpose of this article is not to cover the technical issues, most of which are beyond me. The reason many CDXC members might be interested in Internet is simply that somewhere amongst that vast collection of information (and about a million new users are connecting to Internet every month, so the amount of traffic is increasing in leaps and bounds) are a number of computer "conferences" with an amateur radio flavour. Provided you have access to Internet at the most basic level, you can participate in these and be able to exchange news and views with amateurs throughout the world.

To give you a flavour, let me say a little about the Internet Contest Reflector, moderated by Trey WN4KKN. To participate in the Reflector, all that is necessary is to send an e-mail (electronic mail) message to CQ-CONTEST-REQUEST@TGV.COM with the one word SUBSCRIBE as the text of the message and, hey presto, from then on you will receive a copy of all messages which are posted on the reflector. To make your own contributions, send messages to CQ-CONTEST@TGV.COM and they will be mailed out to all other participants. Easy! One thing that is particularly exciting to me about Internet is the immediacy it allows. Many contest groups post their claimed scores within days of the major contests. But best of all are the Internet Sprints, organised by Tree N6TR. These short contests are for Internet users - the rules require your log to be uploaded to Tree via Internet within about 4 days of the contest. He then cross-checks the logs electronically, and posts the results a few days later. Surely this is the way of the future, avoiding the 12 month delays with, for example, the CQWW contests. Winners "certificates" are also sent out electronically - you can print them on your local printer! Incidentally, the ARRL will accept contest logs via Internet, and CQ have been doing so experimentally for the WPX contests.

The biggest headache is if you have to pay for incoming messages, as some of the US participants get carried away, posting lots of long (and boring) messages to the reflector. However, most Internet gateways such as Demon in the UK, are available for a standard monthly charge (usually about £10/month) regardless of how much mail you send or receive. Details of these services are available through most of the UK computer magazines, especially now that interest in Internet is so great. Essentially, all you need is a telephone modem in your PC, and a suitable comms package (the comms software is often provided free by the company running the Internet gateway to which you subscribe).

Other similar reflectors which might appeal to CDXC members include the DX one, one

for CT users (the contest software), one for FT-990 users, and indeed several more dedicated to specific software packages or specific radios. To help you on your way, I have included below a copy of the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) file, and details of how to subscribe to some of these other reflectors (so-called because when you mail a message to them it is *reflected* back to the other participants). Of course, in addition to all this, you can use the Internet to send e-mail directly to other amateurs who have access to the system, as well as browsing around the Library of Congress or whatever else takes your fancy. And no TVI either ...

==========

CQ-CONTEST@TGV.COM Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) List

Revised: June 20, 1994

What is CQ-CONTEST?

CQ-CONTEST@TGV.COM is an electronic mail reflector dedicated to hams interested in all types of amateur radio contesting. This is a good place for score reports, expedition rumours, and other contest-related discussion or announcements. This forum is more like the NCJ than QST; INFO-HAMS@UCSD.EDU and rec.radio.amateur.misc are good places to look for a more rounded discussion of the hobby.

Although there is overlap between contesters and DXers, CQ-CONTEST is not a DX-oriented group. DX@UNBC.EDU is an electronic mail mailing list dedicated to the discussion of DXing. For details on how to subscribe to this and other mailing lists, consult the List of Lists at the end of this message.

Each message you send to CQ-CONTEST@TGV.COM will be sent out to all the other subscribers, kinda like a 2-meter repeater that has a coverage radius of 12,000 miles or so. Think of sending mail to the list as the equivalent of an ANNOUNCE/FULL message on PacketCluster. Use regular email to send a message to a specific individual.

Electronic mail is also different from packet radio, in that many subscribers receive their email through commercial services such as CompuServe and MCImail. In essence, many people are paying for each byte of every message sent to CQ-CONTEST. In order to minimize spurious messages, follow the operating hints detailed below.

How do I join CQ-CONTEST?

Subscription management is handled automatically by a program that answers mail send to CQ-CONTEST-REQUEST@TGV.COM. Send a message to CQ-CONTEST-REQUEST@TGV.COM that says SUBSCRIBE if you wish to join the group, or UNSUBSCRIBE if you want to drop out. The Subject: line is ignored. Messages sent to CQ-CONTEST@TGV.COM are broadcast to *all* readers, so don't send subscription requests there.

What are the suggested "operating practices" for CQ-CONTEST?

Put your name and call sign on every message you send. We don't all know everyone by just a call or a nickname.

Use a subject line that indicates the true subject of your message.

Wait a while before answering someone's question. Six other people have probably answered it already. Most answers should go directly to the person who posed the question, rather than to the list.

Unlike PacketCluster, many people pay $$$ when they receive messages. Some people pay per message, some per byte. Therefore, please take this into consideration when

writing a response. Would you pay $0.50 to read the message that you just wrote?

Eschew flamage. If someone sends a flame to the list and you can't bite your tongue, send your flaming reply directly back to the flaming individual, not back to the list. No one wants to pay $1.00 to read these messages (the original flame + your reply). Treat flamers the way you would 2-meter repeater jammers - ignore them.

Make sure there is something of value in each message you send to the list. Avoid messages that are a complete reprint of someone else's message, with nothing but "I agree" or "Me too" added to the bottom -- not much value there.

Some people pay by the byte, so when following up to someone else's message, be sure to include only the essential pieces or thread of the note. Don't include those 20 extra header lines that your mail gateway tacked onto the original message.

How can I find out the email address of a particular contester?

John Pescatore, WB2EKK (pescatore_jt@ncsd.gte.com), and George Fremin, WB5VZL (geoiii@bga.com), maintain fairly current lists of contester email addresses. Send a note to them asking for their lists. You can also get a list of registered CQ-Contest subscribers by sending a message to CQ-Contest-Request@TGV.COM that says REVIEW.

How can I find out more about the Internet?

Pick up a copy of the book _The Internet Companion_ by Tracy LaQuey, Addison-Wesley, ISBN 0-201-62224-6. If your local technical book store doesn't carry it, you can order from Computer Literacy, 2590 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95131. Their phone number is 408-435-0744.

List of Lists

CQ-Contest@TGV.COM
Contest forum

DX@UNBC.EDU
DX forum

QRP@Think.COM
QRP forum

VHF.icon_fonts@xeroxaffiliates.xerox.com
VHF forum

VHF-Request.icon_fonts@xeroxaffiliates.xerox.com

Boatanchors@GNU.AI.MIT.EDU
Old ham gear forum

VHF@W6YX.Stanford.EDU
VHF forum

N6TRLOG@CMicro.COM
N6TR logging program forum

ct-user@mlo.dec.com
K1EA's CT logging program forum

To join the CT-User reflector, send a message to Majordomo@sttng.mlo.dec.com, including the words SUBSCRIBE CT-USER in the text. This is a good place from which to download the latest Country.Dat file, hear about bugs and bug fixes, etc.

ham-tech@netcom.COM
forum for people with technical ham related questions (antennas, radios, digital communications, etc) to share information with each other

w1aw-list@World.STD.COM
distribution list for the dissemination of official news and information from the American Radio Relay League (the "League")

ky1n-list@World.STD.COM
distribution list for the dissemination of volunteer examination information in New England

ham-ant@UCSD.EDU

Bidirectional mailing list with Usenet group rec.radio.amateur.antenna

ham-bsd@UCSD.EDU
A discussion group for people interested in ham radio applications of the Jolitz 386BSD software.

ham-digital@UCSD.EDU
Bidirectional gateway with Usenet newsgroup(s) rec.radio.amateur.digital.*

ham-equip@UCSD.EDU
Bidirectional gateway with Usenet newsgroup rec.radio.amateur.equipment

ham-homebrew@UCSD.EDU
Bidirectional gateway with Usenet newsgroup rec.radio.amateur.homebrew

ham-policy@UCSD.EDU
Bidirectional gateway with Usenet newsgroup rec.radio.amateur.policy

ham-radio@UCSD.EDU
The HAM-RADIO mailing list is an experimental digest using subject grouping and MIME encapsulation to provide a daily dose of ham radio related traffic from the Usenet

ham-space@UCSD.EDU
Bidirectional gateway with Usenet newsgroup rec.radio.amateur.space

info-hams@UCSD.EDU
Bidirectional gateway with Usenet newsgroup rec.radio.amateur.misc

990-request@xyzoom.info.com
for discussion relating to FT-990 and FT-1000.

QSL MANAGERS - DO THEY REALLY RIP YOU OFF?

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

There have been various comments in the amateur radio press over the last year, and also the odd item on the PacketCluster network, suggesting that QSL managers are only in it for the money. Bren, G4DYO, also mentions in his article on QSLing that this view is held by some G-DXers.

Having undertaken the chore of QSL management for GB1OTA for the last two years (and will be doing it for GB301OTA), I have been able to compile some facts and figures which, I hope, will show what managers really get out of the QSL game.

Total QSLs sent	3524
Direct QSLs	240
Income with direct QSLs (£1=$1.45, 1 IRC = 40p)	£95.57
Postage - direct QSLs	£78.15
Postage - QSLs to RSGB (Approx 1000 hand delivered at no cost)	£9.75
Postage - QSLs from RSGB (Cost of envelopes not included)	£24.92
Labels	£19.60
Time	Lots!
Total expenditure	£132.44
Income-Expenditure	-£36.87

Still think QSL Managers are ripping you off?! (The above excludes the cost of QSLs).

IOTA 30 Years On

The IOTA 30th Anniversary Booklet

60 pages packed with stories about IOTA island operations, articles about the programme, complete IOTA certificate listings (If you have ever received an IOTA certificate, your call will be listed), current most wanted islands list from the IOTA records database, the complete 1994 Honour Roll and Annual Listing with write-up, over 30 photographs of islands and island chasers, glossy colour cover, much new material never previously published. Available for the RSGB HF/IOTA Convention in early October. Orders will be taken now for delivery in about six weeks. Price, including postage, £6/$10/15IRC(EU), £7/$12/18IRC (outside EU) from Roger Balister, G3KMA, La Quinta, Mimbridge, Chobham, Woking, Surrey GU24 8AR, England. Sorry, NO FOREIGN CHEQUES.

Roger Balister, RSGB IOTA Director

RAMBLINGS OF A DX EDITOR

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

The Doldrums are upon us
For two years, maybe three.
But DX is there for the taker,
Whether CW, SSB, QRO or QRP!

The last couple of months have been dull, propagation-wise... or have they? We've certainly heard plenty of complaints about "dead bands" and "only EU DX", but there has been plenty to work if you set your mind to it - ace SWL David Whitaker and his friends had logged well over 280 DXCC countries by early July, which suggests that the magic 300 should be workable in 1994; not bad for what could be sunspot minimum year.

What else has been about? Well, in the last two months half a dozen new IOTA islands have been activated and all were workable from the UK - and we're NOT talking about Canvey Island and the Isle of Dogs! Martin, G3ZAY did a sterling job with a couple of very difficult ones up in the northern wastes of Canada and there were several other new ones afar apart as eastern Canada and Taiwan. A few fairly serious UK DXers still do not chase counters for the IOTA programme, yet it is one of the world's outstanding DX awards with 18 distinctly separate certificates to chase - some of which are very difficult indeed!. So often those with poor antennas, or barefoot stations, complain that they cannot compete, yet there is something in IOTA for everybody. Sure, working a portable station in the Pacific under current conditions may well take a well-equipped station, but QRP operators with string antennas can easily rack up enough European islands to qualify for several IOTA certificates. Few award programmes can boast annual conventions, yet IOTA has enjoyed just that for the last few years with the award programme providing a major "draw" for the RSGB HF/IOTA Conventions, and few IOTA enthusiasts will have missed the excellent pre-Convention hospitality evenings at G3KMA's QTH! The second IOTA Contest was fantastic and it looks like becoming the major RSGB event in the annual contest calendar, with both CW and SSB interests catered for. Many congratulations to Don, G3OZF and Steve, G4JVG/P29DX for the superb GJ3OZF operation from the "Minkies". Looks like they may be top-scoring G multi-op this year. As well as the "official" ones, CDXC and DXNS have sponsored trophies for various categories in the contest, so how about giving it a whirl next year? Remember that DXing is NOT just DXCC and we have a truly superb DX award programme on our own doorstep. Not only that, IOTA is administered by a team led by our own President, IOTA Director Roger Balister, G3KMA!

Jim Smith, VK9NS continues his patient negotiations with the Bhutan Government and he is fairly confident that an invitation to operate again will be received sooner rather than later. He keeps the various DX bulletins well in touch with events so watch your favourite DX weekly for updates. Jim also uses the Voicebank to keep fellow DXers informed so the odd call on 0426-925240 might prove beneficial. Remember, calling the Voicebank costs the same as a local call from anywhere in the UK. Not everyone is connected to the Cluster so please remember your fellow DXers and use this facility which is provided for us by RSGB.

As most of you know, DXNS was appointed the European sales point for the video and book of the recent 3Y0PI Peter 1 Island DXpedition. These are truly excellent "DX Memorabilia" and the book has received accolades from far and wide - *"Not to be missed by any DXer"* (Roger Western, G3SXW), *"..the best amateur radio book ever written"* (Dewitt Jones, W4BAA), *"Every DXer should have a copy on the shack bookshelf"* (Jim Smith, VK9NS).

Surprisingly, very few CDXC members have so far purchased either a book or a video! There are around 150 members, yet less than 10 (yes TEN) members have so far purchased either a book or video!! (If the remaining 140 have bought books/videos direct from the USA I take it all back). We are supposed to be the elite of UK HF DXing and one might expect that CDXC members would be at the front of any queue to support a major DXpedition. The operators, who some members will have met at the pre-DXpedition send-off at Brize Norton, were truly grateful for the assistance rendered by UK amateurs and there can't be many (if any) CDXC members who still have 3Y on their wants lists. So guys, if you are sitting behind a multi-thousand pound station please remember those who spent a great deal, both in monetary and personal hardship terms, to give YOU a new one. Those who have seen the US video will know how close they came to total disaster and it takes a very special person to take such risks to give pleasure to his fellows. Peter 1 is unlikely to be aired again for at least ten years; show your gratitude and buy a book or video to assist the team members to recover some of the huge costs involved. Every penny collected, after postage costs, will go to the 3Y0PI team. The book and video will be on sale in the CDXC Room at the forthcoming HF/IOTA Convention and if you talk nicely to Peter, ON6TT, he'll probably autograph the book for you.

Scarborough Reef had us all biting our nails but thanks to Martii Laine most of us made a contact. To say that there are problems surrounding this one would be an understatement! The original, comprehensive, petition for separate country status was submitted by Hans, DK9KX. Before Hans was able to operate the BV team put Scarborough on the air and shortly after this Hans withdrew his petition. Now, the question of DXCC status for the Reef appears on the DXAC agenda below the question of the size of potential DXCC counters. There is a move to prevent small rocks, which cannot be activated reliably, becoming separate counters and the outcome of this discussion could affect Scarborough Reef. Also, the new petition, submitted by the BV's, did not include any supporting maps or other necessary documentation. It is likely to be some time before a decision is announced.

There are no rumours about the possible outcome of the Pratas question but, again, there were "political" problems with one or two top DXers stirring up problems which did not exist. Often we hear people say they would prefer a standard countries list to be established, which would not change. It's not that easy with daily political upheavals and it makes for an interesting life for the DXer!

Still nothing to get excited about on the P5RS7 or 5A0RR operations; the chance of either being accepted for DXCC looks increasingly remote.

In early August DXNS published the latest Honor Roll listings for UK stations and it was very encouraging to see the G0 prefix represented by two callsigns. Shame only one is a CDXC member but congratulations to Mike, G0DQS on joining that elite group of DXers. Out of seventeen callsigns in the No. 1 slot of Mixed Honor Roll only seven are members of CDXC. In fact, out of 62 separate callsigns in the Mixed, Phone and CW Honor Rolls only 28 are members of the club. As a Founder Member this gives me cause for concern as it was precisely these DXers whom the Founders hoped to attract to form the backbone of the club when it expanded nation-wide. It would be interesting to hear from a few of them about why they are not members of the UK DX Foundation, which supports DX ventures which have almost certainly put them on the Honor Roll!

As most readers will know, Al Hernandez, WA3YVN, is leading a team to South Georgia in early 1995. Most of the equipment is already aboard the ship, which works in the Antarctic area, ready for when the team joins it next winter. Precise travel details have yet to be finalised but there is a good chance that team members will use the RAF to fly from Brize Norton to the Falkland Islands. We had excellent support for VP8SSI, but CDXC representation at the 3Y0PI send-off was meagre - possibly because two departure dates were involved.. Let's give the South Georgia team a real send-off if the opportunity presents itself. More news later.

Lastly, how about a few more members contributing articles to this Newsletter?

See you in the pile-ups?

Amateur Radio Summer Camp

Roger Western, G3SXW

We stepped off the plane into a sticky 90 degs F (not at all what was expected) on a Friday afternoon in July, having been well wined and dined by some pretty blond air hostesses, interspersed with much QSL sorting and DX chat. We were met by Tomi, the Contest Manager of the national society who would drive us the three hours West to the annual convention of radio amateurs.

Its called "Summer Camp" because most of the one thousand or so were camping in tents or caravans or had rented a log cabin in the woods, We were checked in to a superbly luxurious hotel and then met a crowd of the locals whilst registering at the convention. They were talking a language the likes of which I had never heard before.

The atmosphere was friendly and very easy-going - as it would stay for the rest of the weekend. Nigel (G3TXF) and I were to stay just 48 hours before returning to the hectic world of commerce. Dinner that night was an outstanding salmon and later a more than minimal amount of local beer had no trouble at all in finding its way down our throats.

That experience of saying hello to so many call-signs that you distinctly, or at least vaguely, recall from the DX pile-ups down the years is indeed pleasurable. The first such gathering which had that peculiar impact on me was at Visalia: to greet or even simply to goggle at the vast array of W6 call-sign badges is indeed a sensation. The same happened here. There were only a handful of non-locals and all others were wearing tags starting with ocean henry. Had you already guessed this mystery location?!

The main events were on the Saturday including a DX and a Contest forum. I had been invited to present to the latter and offered a slide show on "Winning CQ WW CW Multi-Single", the story of ZC4Z (1992). In the same forum Jukka, OH2MAM, showed slides and much fascinating analysis of operating the Scandinavian Activity Contest from the massive set-up on OH0. This is a hugely competitive battle in Scandinavia, one CW and one SSB event each year, and many trophies were later awarded. The OH's are justifiably proud of their achievements in regularly coming out top country against SM, LA, OZ, OY, OX.

Honoured guest at the DX forum was Zorro, JH1AJT who gave us an insight to his E31A operation from Eritrea. If you think "extrovert" and "Japanese" somehow seem strange words to juxtapose then please think again. Zorro is a character and a half. The renowned OH2BH then showed some astonishing slides of Scarborough Reef, with a scaffold structure clinging precariously to a tiny rock a few inches above the sea performing the duty of operating table. Are DXers all mad?! That expedition was a major engineering feat. The ZD9SXW video rounded out that session before we all

escaped the phenomenal heat in the room and headed outside to slake serious thirsts.

Dinner that evening was downtown at the really picturesque port of Naantali, a little way from the town of Turku (in OH1-land). A wonderful holiday atmosphere in beautiful surroundings. The menu offered reindeer which naturally I could not resist, being so DIFFERENT and hardly likely to ever find again anywhere else in the world. Actually, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience but less the taste. In the dinner group were several well-known OH calls including of course OH2BH, OH1RY, OH6EI (the Contest Manager mentioned earlier) and OH6YF, OH1TX and Ville, OH2MM, the acknowledged world master of single-op contesting. Little would one realise that guitar and banjo were included in the repertoire of these boisterous hams, bubbling over with energy and enthusiasm until they were fit to burst. For the second night we experienced the sun dipping oh so slowly around 0030 local time and then twilight, reminding ourselves that we were at a latitude similar to the Shetlands. Somehow we finished up sipping bubbly on a yacht, before finally collapsing at the hotel. After all, even contesters need a little sleep sometimes.

The drive back to Helsinki (OH2-land) passed the huge antenna farm of OH2HE, prior to which we had a little more refreshment at the new OH1RY QTH, then the OH2MM in-town location, and on to the airport. Arrived home Sunday evening with a warm smile of satisfaction after a wonderful weekend of camaraderie.

The most significant point I have specially saved until last. It bears special consideration. I noted earlier that something over 1000 hams attended this summer camp. Please stop and think: the population of Finland is 5.5m, exactly one-tenth that of the UK. Their amateur radio population is something approaching 6,000, exactly one-tenth of the UK. Yet - one in five of all hams joined in the fun. Can you imagine 20% of UK hams coming to a convention in this country? That would provide a turn-out of around 12,000! On my expeditions to H44, 3DA and ZD9 the number of QSOs from Finland is about the same as those from UK, yet they have only ONE-TENTH the number of hams. Why are they so much more active, especially on HF?

Their enthusiasm is astonishing. Many of those present were in their 20's and 30's, many were licensed YLs/XYLs. The whole hobby has a different status in Finland. They have a TV Teletext page updated every minute with the latest DX Packet Cluster alerts, and some of the biggest antenna farms in the world. Why? I can offer no full explanation. Certainly an enormous amount of space does make a big difference. Finland is the size of UK with therefore ten times more space per person than we have. That space affects life in general, but especially amateur radio, i.e. thinking big on antennas, less potential for planning and TVI/RFI problems. But mostly I reckon its simply a different attitude. In the UK, after all, we do have to constantly fight the social malaise of negative thinking.

Thanks indeed to our hosts for a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. If you happen to be thinking of visiting Scandinavia in July do check out the OH summer camp dates. In 1995 it will be hosted by the OH3s, a little to the north of Helsinki, and you are guaranteed a warm welcome and much friendship.

HEI, de G3SXW.

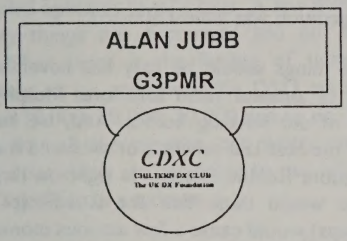
3Y0PI

You met them, worked them, got the card and read the book! Now buy the video! The amazing Peter 1st Island DXpedition story in full colour. The 30 minute US video is now available, price £12.00. Apply to DXNS Office, 123 Reading Road, Finchampstead, Wokingham RG11 4RD. (Cheques payable to B J McCartney)

CDXC BITS & BOBS

New CDXC Badges

The CDXC Committee has decided to replace the old style CDXC badge with a completely new design. It will look something like this (apologies for my poor artistic skills!):



The badge will be made of a black plastic base, with a 1" white enamel disc bearing the CDXC logo, and name/callsign engraved on a metal overlay. How much will it cost members? Nothing! The Committee feels that as members who joined in the last year to eighteen months have not had one of the earlier style of badge, and that as the old style is not very durable, badges will be issued free of charge to all members - members being defined as those who have paid their subscriptions for 1994/5. All members who have paid up by September 15th will be able to collect their badges from the CDXC room at the HF/IOTA Convention. All badges not collected then, plus those for late payers will be mailed, probably with a Newsletter.

KEY FOB and PAPER WEIGHT

A CDXC key fob, in a simulated leather material, with the same enamel disc bearing the logo will be available from the CDXC room at the Convention, price £1.50. A superb paper weight, in a marble-like material, approximately 2½" square, and ½" thick, bearing the CDXC logo will also be available, priced £2.50. It will not be economic to mail these items, so please make sure you get yours at the Convention!

3Y0PI Book & Video

Copies of both of these will be available from the CDXC room. It's possible that Peter Casier, ON6TT, will sign the books.

Annual Dinner

The Committee has decided to fix the annual CDXC dinner on *the first Saturday in February*. This date doesn't appear to clash with any contests. That means the 1995 dinner will be on Saturday February 4th, venue TBA. Put it in your diary now!

Convention

There will be a visitors book in the CDXC room at the Convention - if you visit the convention, please make sure you sign the book!

Rubber Stamps

Rubber stamps bearing the CDXC logo may be had from David Mann, G0HXN, cost £5.00.

Membership List Changes

The following changes to the CDXC membership list have been notified:

G0LMX
VINCENT DENECKER,
ROSE COTTAGE, GAVESTON RD, HARWELL,
DIDCOT, OXON.
Tel 0235 832 563

G3WGN
DAVID ASLIN, PARKSIDE,
MUCH MARCLE, LEDBURY, HEREFORDSHIRE,
HR8 2NW.
Tel 0531 660461

G4IPR is Tony, not Terry

GM0EGI
BRIAN DEVLIN 'BORRODALE', MAIN STREET,
THORNHILL, BY STIRLING, FK8 3PN.
Tel 0786 850377

ANATOMY OF A DXPEDITION, A BOOK REVIEW

J. B. Smith, VK9NS

3Y0PI
Peter 1 Island
ANTARCTICA
By KK6EK
Robert W. Schmieder PhD, FEC

It is not often that I get an opportunity to review a book in the name of amateur radio. However, having read 3Y0PI - PETER 1 - ANTARCTICA, by Bob, KK6EK, from cover to cover, I feel on safe ground. The 227 page book is, in my view, quite superb with, a sweeping view of this major DXpedition, precisely documented and illustrated with many photographs. Every DXer should have a copy on the shack's bookshelf. It would serve as a reminder of what some radio amateurs will do in the name of DXing. Who, but the DXers and the IOTA Hunters, would want a QSO with Peter 1? The motivation for the team is there, Peter 1 heads the wanted DXCC country list.

To back-track for a moment, there are several areas of the world, DXCC Countries that is, which are difficult to activate. Remoteness, the financial cost, long distance sea travel, landing, living, working and getting off these isolated areas. Peter 1, Heard, Bouvet, South Sandwich, are all in this category.

What was so special about Peter 1 was the sheer magnitude of the operation, arguably over-kill and all for DXing. From a first budget figure of $US 195,500 the projected costs escalate. So, certainly, there can be no question that the Peter 1 operation was the most expensive DXpedition ever.

Bob, KK6EK, has several books to his credit, and this latest effort is truly magnificent. In the book, there is detail on the past history of the island, the frustrations of putting such a DXpedition on the road, or should that be sea? In fact, a superb log of events from start to finish.

It says a great deal for the tenacity of the organisers and the embers of the team that the whole exercise was finally a 'go', the logistics were formidable. Yet even in those final stages they suffered a period of cliff-hanging, nail biting uncertainty. The DXpedition was almost aborted.

That things should be easy has never been part of amateur radio folk lore. Murphy is one of our un-sung heroes. And, we know that the best laid schemes of mice and men - to quote Robbie Burns - is right on target. Who would think that the R.A.F. (of all groups) would cause a few anxious moments in the U.K. just before departure for the Falklands? The tremendous support given by several dedicated U.K. radio amateurs shines through in this moment of desperation. Finally , after the long haul to the Falkland Islands, the team are together getting to grips with each other. There are a few problems in the process.

The sea voyage to Peter 1 on the Kapitan Khehnikov (a registered Russian passenger ship) is apparently luxurious. But, how do you actually explain to your fellow, tourist orientated, passengers, why one is going to Peter 1? Yes, I agree it is a near impossibility and one can feel the incredulous response to "What are you going to talk about on the radio?" The reply? "Nothing." Now, that is an understatement for you. The arrival off the island, the helicopter landing, the transfer of tonnes of gear, and the members of the group is covered in detail.

Organisation is obviously of the highest order - there are a few heart stopping moments. Where are the metal pins needed to put this unit together? The gas bottle does not fit the appliance etc. The amateur radio setting up goes smoothly enough. I like the touch where they waited until everything

was ready before starting the 3Y0PI operation. One can only guess at the resultant pile-ups!

During the days of the operation, one can feel two things from reading the book. The tremendous tension that builds up page after page as operators try to keep the QSO total rising. There is occasional inter-tribal tension - trying to get an operator to give up a perfectly horrendous pile-up - to allow the scheduled operator to take over. A few other naughty things are discovered and put to right. Then there is the feeling of things beginning to go very well, the QSO count reaches 10,000; 20,000; 30,000 and so on. It seems that all the expense, the worry and tremendous effort are beginning to pay off - the DXpedition is a success.

There is a mind boggling section on Packet messages going the rounds in the U.S. at the time - quite incredible. Written by the stay at homes - never do anything types - in their sanctimonious back biting. Nasty stuff.

Another aspect, quite outside amateur radio, is in the living and surviving in this remote island. The operator 'high', after several hours of working a pile-up, soon evaporates as one steps back into the real world again. What is the real world? It is survival on a tiny speck of snow covered, ice capped rock in splendid isolation. The digging out of generators and refuelling, that is the reality. The clearing of a snow path to the toilet area, that is the reality. To eat, keep reasonably clean, to sleep, that is the reality. To get ready for the next session of wall to wall noise, that is the reality.

Soon it is time to go and surely after the major effort and the sheer determination of the group, things will go well this time. They should be so lucky! With the pick up boat finally in place, the majority of the gear uplifted and back on the ship, a small group remain on the island, and Murphy strikes again. The group have taken a terrible gamble., the weather turns nasty, and they have little left ashore. Will they make it back on board? In hindsight, we all know that they did, but it was a close call. A couple of nights ashore with no shelter etc. would have been a disaster.

With a total of some 60,000 QSOs Bob does a masterly analysis of it all. Band openings, call areas, areas of the world worked etc. A rather nice write up about each of the operators comes towards the end of the book. We have come to know them in this book, and formed our own opinions on the way. We have come to know their weaknesses and individual strengths. It is to their credit that pettiness was put to one side on many of the important occasions.

The cost of QSOs has been calculated at US $4.00 each. It shows the nonsense of the one dollar green stamp approach when QSLing such DXpeditions. I have no hesitation in saying that every DXer should buy a copy for several reasons. If you are a true blue DXer, you owe it to yourself to read this book, just as a reminder of what goes into these DXpeditions - the organisation, the travelling and operating behind that elusive and much wanted DX call. Another reason is that purchase of this book will help in a small way to recoup a fraction of the total costs of the DXpedition. Finally, and reason enough in itself, is that the book will then be dedicated personally to you, the DXer. In the words written on an early page in the book - *This book is dedicated to everyone who can say "I helped make it happen".*

Our thanks are due to Bob, KK6EK, for telling things "like it was", and to the 3Y0PI team: K0IR, leader and organisation, WA4JQS, ON6TT, W6MKB, XE1L, N4GCK, HB9AHL, and the non radio amateur member, Martin Tosseyn. They certainly gave their best.

73 Jim VK9NS

MARTIN LYNCH

G4HKS

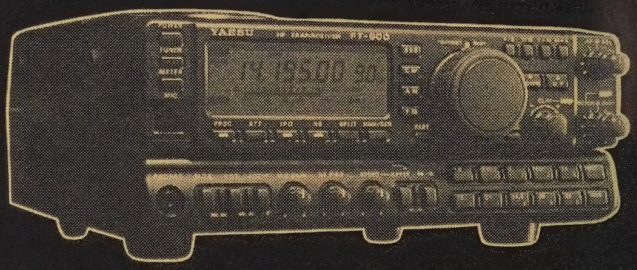
THE AMATEUR RADIO EXCHANGE CENTRE

Straight talking, sound advice, great deals and an after sales service which is second to none.

My Customers' Charter gives you a better reception - worldwide.

HF ADVICE

If you're buying a station for the home, or for use on that remote island...



...Try the new Yaesu FT-900
A true HF base station - the size of a mobile!

HF ADVICE

You can't do better than buy from Martin Lynch
Europe's No. 1 Amateur Radio Equipment Supplier

140-142 Northfield Avenue Ealing, London W13 9SB
Tel: 0181 566 1120
Fax: 0181 566 1207 After Hours: 0973 339339